

- [-] designing at least one of the input/output units [(4) is designed] as a security unit [(4),]; and
- [-] including at least one checkbit in the multi-bit message [(8)] transferred to the security unit [(4) has at least one checkbit, and], wherein
- [-] the security unit [(4)] interprets the transferred multi-bit message [(8)] as correct only if the at least one checkbit alternates within a predefined monitoring period.

2. (Amended) [Data transfer] The method according to claim 1, further comprising: [characterized in that]

- [-] designing the security unit [(4) is designed] as an output unit for activating an output [(10),]; including
- [-] has] a timer [(13)] which, at the end of the monitoring period, switches the output [(10)] to a secure condition, wherein
- [-] the timer [(13)] is reset with each transfer of a correct multi-bit message [(8)].

3. (Amended) [Data transfer] The method according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein

- [-] the security unit [(4)] can be activated under two different addresses,
- [-] a multi-bit message [(8)] is [in each case] transferred to the security unit [(4)] under [both] each of the two different addresses, and

[-] the security unit [(4)] interprets the transferred multi-bit messages [(8)] as correct only if the two multi-bit messages [(8)] match one another.

4. (Amended) [Data transfer] The method according to claim 1[, 2 or 3], [characterized in that] wherein the multi-bit message [(8) comprises] includes at least four data bits.

Please add the following new claims:

5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the security unit can be activated under two different addresses, a multi-bit message is transferred to the security unit under each of the two different addresses, and the security unit interprets the transferred multi-bit messages as correct only if the two multi-bit messages match one another.

6. The method according to claim 2, wherein the multi-bit message includes at least four data bits.

7. The method according to claim 3, wherein the multi-bit message includes at least four data bits.